

PRAYER

The Reverend Father John Mudd, Archbishop Carroll High School, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

Blessed are You, Lord God of all creation. We come before You to open this session of Congress as Your humble servants.

You are gracious and kind and merciful, and so we ask that You look on us who are Your people and answer our prayers.

Make us ever more conscious of the great blessings we share in our Nation, and help us to work together to solve the problems that threaten our well-being.

Good and gracious God, inspire our President and our leaders in Congress with a renewed vision for a better Nation and a better world where those who are weakest and the most vulnerable will be protected, and those who are strongest will act with integrity, responsibility, and generosity.

You have entrusted to us the gifts of freedom, opportunity and wealth. May we always be worthy of Your trust and use these blessings in the work for a just world where all Your children can live in peace and prosperity.

Fill us with Your spirit of wisdom and knowledge, right judgment and courage as we advance the common good, protecting human life, promoting the well-being of the family, pursuing social justice, and practicing global solidarity.

In Your holy name, we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GIBBONS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WE CAN CUT WASTE

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Madam Speaker, last week, the General Accounting Office announced the results of its voluntary survey of nine, just nine Federal agencies. That survey showed that the U.S. Government lost \$19.1 billion due to fraud and clerical errors last year. Let me repeat that, \$19.1 billion of tax-

payer money was lost simply due to government errors.

Yet, some of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle still maintain that our Federal Government cannot reduce wasteful government spending by 1 percent. Really? Well, based on these findings, common sense tells us that we can reduce wasteful spending by almost \$20 billion and probably even more.

We can reduce, even eliminate, the amount wasted on costly overpayments by simply addressing the fraud and minimizing clerical errors. Wasteful spending in Washington does exist, and it needs to be stopped.

My question is this: Is it too much to expect efficiency and accountability in the Federal Government?

Madam Speaker, I yield back the billions of wasted taxpayer dollars from the hard working Americans.

NORTH KOREA IS BIGGEST RECIPIENT OF U.S. AID IN EAST ASIA

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Madam Speaker, the biggest recipient of American aid in East Asia is not our friends the Philippines, South Korea, or East Timor. The big bucks go to a blue brutal dictator called North Korea. Unbelievable.

North Korea got \$650 million from us. Now, if that is not enough to prop up communism, not only can North Korea launch 100 missiles at America, North Korea is scheduled to get over \$1 billion in aid from our taxpayers next year, \$1 billion to North Korea. Beam me up. Who dreamed up this policy? Mao Zedong?

I yield back the fact that North Korea will not be building schools and hospitals, nor peace academies with our money.

LET LOCAL PEOPLE DECIDE NEEDS FOR CLASSROOMS

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BALLANGER. Madam Speaker, why does the President split hairs on his 100,000 teachers? He admits we put more money into education than he does. Our money can be spent to hire teachers, to train teachers, to build classrooms and so forth. His can only hire teachers. Will they be qualified, or will they have classrooms?

California tried to cut class size and hired 30,000 teachers. But since there were few qualified persons available, they ended up with untrained teachers in crowded classrooms. Will we do the same thing? I hope not. Let us let the local people decide what their needs are.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that she will postpone further proceedings today on each most motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record votes on postponed questions will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules, but not before 6 p.m. today.

MUHAMMAD ALI BOXING REFORM ACT

Mr. BLILEY. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1832) to reform unfair and anti-competitive practices in the professional boxing industry, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1832

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Muhammad Ali Boxing Reform Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Professional boxing differs from other major, interstate professional sports industries in the United States in that it operates without any private sector association, league, or centralized industry organization to establish uniform and appropriate business practices and ethical standards. This has led to repeated occurrences of disreputable and coercive business practices in the boxing industry, to the detriment of professional boxers nationwide.

(2) State officials are the proper regulators of professional boxing events, and must protect the welfare of professional boxers and serve the public interest by closely supervising boxing activity in their jurisdiction. State boxing commissions do not currently receive adequate information to determine whether boxers competing in their jurisdiction are being subjected to contract terms and business practices which may violate State regulations, or are onerous and confiscatory.

(3) Promoters who engage in illegal, coercive, or unethical business practices can take advantage of the lack of equitable business standards in the sport by holding boxing events in States with weaker regulatory oversight.

(4) The sanctioning organizations which have proliferated in the boxing industry have not established credible and objective criteria to rate professional boxers, and operate with virtually no industry or public oversight. Their ratings are susceptible to manipulation, have deprived boxers of fair opportunities for advancement, and have undermined public confidence in the integrity of the sport.

(5) Open competition in the professional boxing industry has been significantly interfered with by restrictive and anticompetitive business practices of certain promoters and sanctioning bodies, to the detriment of the athletes and the ticket-buying public. Common practices of promoters and sanctioning organizations represent restraints of interstate trade in the United States.

(6) It is necessary and appropriate to establish national contracting reforms to protect